Library

I

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Acc'd

PRO DEO REGE GREGE

BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY

ANNUAL REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health
and Public Health Inspector
in respect of the year 1962 for the
Borough of Bewdley in the
County of Worcestershire

BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY

ANNUAL REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health

and Public Health Inspector

for

1962

TELFORD PRESS BEWDLEY

BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

YEAR 1962

Mayor :

Councillor E. J. FINCH

Chairman of Health Committee :

Councillor A. M. W. FORBES

Vice-Chairman of Health Committee :

Councillor J. R. HAMILTON

Water and Health Committee :

Alderman P. W. PALMER
Alderman Mrs. D. L. LAWRENCE, C.C.
Alderman R. W. COLES
Councillor Mrs. F. S. PRITCHARD
Councillor R. FELLOWS
Councillor A. T. DALLOWAY
Councillor Mrs. N. C. ANSON
Councillor S. K. QUAYLE
Councillor J. H. GARBETT

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

Mr. J. E. SHEEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE
BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1962.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections:—

" A " Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

" B " General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

" C " Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

" D " Housing.

" E " Inspection and Supervision of Food.

" F " Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

SECTION "A"

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	3,681
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid 1962)	5,140
Population (Census 1961)	5,041
Estimated number of inhabited houses and self-contained flats (end of 1962)	1,765
Rateable Value	£45,912
Sum represented by One Penny Rate	£178

Industry within the Borough is on a small scale, the area being mainly residential. The principal source of local employment is a factory processing Animal Feeding Stuffs, Seeds, Fertilisers, etc., where 80 persons were employed during 1962.

Other sources of employment, besides Agricultural, include a Saw Mill and, remaining from the traditional Bewdley industries, a Brass Foundry, Rope Works and Leather Works.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

Live Births

	1962			1961		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	94	50	44	88	39	49
Illegitimate	3	1	2	4	2	2
	97	51	46	92	41	51

The Live Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population of the Borough was: 1962, 18.87 (1961, 17.9).

The Live Birth rate for England and Wales was: 1962, 18.0 (1961, 17.4).

Still Births

	1962			1961		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	—	2	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	—	2	—	—	—

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was: 1962, 20.2 (1961, 0.0).

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births for England and Wales was: 1962, 18.1.

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population in the Borough was: 1962, 0.389 (1961, 0.0).

Deaths

1962			1961		
Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
74	41	33	67	34	33

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was: 1962, 14.40 (1961, 13.08).

The Death rate for the whole of England and Wales was: 1962, 11.9 (1961, 12.0).

Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths of mothers associated with childbirth during the year.

Death of Infants under 1 year

	1962			1961		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	—	2	2	2	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	—	2	2	2	—

The Infant Mortality rate was: 1962, 20.20 (1961, 21.73).

The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales was: 1962, 21.4 (1961, 21.6).

Causes of Death

Ref. No.		Male	Female
13, 14.	Cancer	4	5
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	3
18, 19, 20, 21.	Heart Disease	19	11
23, 24.	Pneumonia/Bronchitis	6	3
25.	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	6
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	1	1
34.	All other accidents	1	1
35.	Suicide	2	—
	TOTAL	41	33

SECTION "B"

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Hospitals

The following hospitals administered by the Midland Regional Hospital Board are available :—

1. The Kidderminster General Hospital for general medical and surgical cases.
2. The Blakebrook Hospital.
3. The Hayley Green Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases.
4. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital at Stourport.
5. The Croft Maternity Home.

Ambulance Service

This is provided by the Worcestershire County Council as Local Health Authority.

In September a system of radio control, based on Worcester, was started and all applications, including emergency calls, are rapidly dealt with from there. At the same time the station at Kidderminster has been augmented to give a full 24-hour service.

Clinics

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly with a doctor in attendance monthly, when diphtheria immunisation and vaccination are carried out.

Separate sessions are arranged for poliomyelitis immunisation for those age groups eligible.

Tuberculosis

(1) Treatment — A dispensary is held twice weekly at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

(2) Prevention and After Care — Preventive measures of this disease are the responsibility of the County Council and are carried out under the direction of the County Medical Officer.

An After-Care Sub-Committee administers this service in the district in conjunction with other districts in the Kidderminster Divisional Area.

Venereal Disease

A treatment centre is operated at the Kidderminster General Hospital by the Regional Hospital Board.

Home Nursing and Health Visiting

There are two District Nurses available in the Borough, one each for Bewdley and Wribbenhall. There is also one whole-time Health Visitor.

Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948

No action has been taken by the Council under this section during the year.

Domestic Help Service

The Home Help Service continues to be administered by the Women's Voluntary Service. At the end of the year 1 full-time, 14 part-time and 2 occasional home helps were employed and 57 Chronic, 61 General and 2 Maternity cases received attention. The majority of Chronic and General cases were old persons.

SECTION "C"

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area

Water Supply

The newly-formed North West Worcestershire Water Board took control of the Borough Water Undertaking on 1st October, 1962.

Water supplied to the Borough and adjoining districts had, up to this time, proved satisfactory.

My department will continue to exercise supervision over the bacteriological quality of water supplies within the Borough.

The water is not plumbo-solvent and no action has been necessary for any form of contamination in mains supply.

The number of houses supplied from the public water mains direct to the house is 1,731, and the population served is approximately 5,200. 28 houses are supplied from standpipes and the population served is approximately 70. Five houses obtain water from private sources and the population served is approximately 14.

Drainage and Sewerage

No serious nuisance has occurred during the year concerning the drainage system in general, apart from minor defects at the Sewage Pumping Station. As a result of this trouble the Council are considering the installation of check valves, and a bypass valve in the pumping main, and it is probable that this work will be carried out fairly soon.

In addition, the need for grit chambers adjacent to the Sewage Pumping Station is being investigated.

The Council has been advised by their Consulting Engineer that the main sewers are likely to be adequate for a doubled population provided that intensive efforts are made to exclude surface water. On the other hand such an increase in population may require additional pumping equipment.

SECTION "D"

Housing

New Accommodation

Thirty-six Dwellings were completed by private enterprise.

Slum Clearance

No progress has been made in this respect as the Council's house building programme is still held up.

Official Representations were submitted in regard to three dwellings, and 10 houses were demolished during the year.

Rent Act, 1957

No Certificates of Disrepair were cancelled during the year.

Caravan Sites

Four sites are authorised under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. These are at:—

(1) The Brant Farm, Upper Blackstone.
(2) Hursts Meadow, Northwood Lane.
(3) Council Hill Camp, Cleobury Road.
(4) Riverside Caravan Park, Dowles Road.

Permits now allow a combined total of 474 caravans.

SECTION "E"

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Bacteriological examinations of samples taken from producers and manufacturers, and all chemical examinations of food, milk and water are carried out by the Worcestershire County Council Laboratory. Bacteriological examinations of consumer samples of milk, water and ice-cream are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory of the Worcester Royal Infirmary, in addition to the routine clinical pathology.

Food Poisoning

No cases of Food Poisoning or Suspected Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

Meat Inspection

Meat Inspection Services and general supervision of Food Premises were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year. (See Public Health Inspector's Report.)

SECTION "F"

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

Diphtheria Immunisation	
Pre-school Children	76
School Children	9
Reinforcing Doses	63
Smallpox Vaccination	
Number Vaccinated	486
Number Re-vaccinated	638
B.C.G. Vaccination	
Number Invited	62
Number Accepted	54
Percentage Accepted	87.1
B.C.G. Negative	49
Positive	2
Number Absent	2
Percentage Positive	3.8

Poliomyelitis

Immunisation continues for children and adults.

Notifications

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	2	—	—

Tuberculosis

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4		nil		nil		nil	

A total number of 32 T.B. cases on the Borough Register at December 31st, 1962, were as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
20	10	—	2

CONCLUSION

The Public Health Services provided within the Borough are satisfactory.

The Council are urged to resume the building of new homes at the earliest possible moment. The need for houses is very great both for young families and for those in unfit properties; and more accommodation suitable to the needs of old people should be provided.

I should like to thank the Mayor, members of the Council, and the Council's Staff, for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,
Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Year 1962

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1962.

HOUSING

As reported by the Medical Officer of Health, Official Representations were made in regard to 3 Sub-standard dwellings within the Borough, and ten dwellings were demolished.

Details of housing inspections are contained in the summary of work of the department.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There are 81 food shops and other food-preparing premises within the district. The majority of these premises were visited at least once during the year and others more frequently as required.

Meat Inspection

Four Slaughtermen's licences were renewed during the year. Two Slaughterhouses were re-licensed in July.

A total number of 120 visits made to food premises during the year included visits made to slaughterhouses for meat inspection purposes. These inspections are carried out at the time of slaughtering whenever possible or as soon as practicable afterwards.

Slaughterhouses Report

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations (Appointed Day) (No. 2) Order, 1962 and The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations (Appointed Day) (No. 2) Order, 1962.

The two Slaughterhouses licensed within the District complied with the requirements of these Orders and were re-licensed during the year.

The table set out below indicates the number of carcases inspected as against the number slaughtered.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	95	Nil	14	1,565	363
Number inspected	41	Nil	9	633	170
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	Nil	2	23	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	29	Nil	22	3.6	7
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.3

Condemned Food

The total quantity of meat and offal condemned at slaughterhouses during the year amounted to 3 cwt. 0 qtr. 17 lb.

Method of disposal of condemned food is by incineration, except in the case of meat and offal at slaughterhouses. This is stained green, as recommended, and collection made by authorised dealers.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of: Inspections (3)	Number of: Written notices (4)	Number of: Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	10	2	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	24	6	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	25	34	8	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	Nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	1	1	—	—	Nil
Total	4	4	—	—	Nil

Milk (Special Designation) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulations, 1949-1953

Sixty-eight samples of milk, heat treated within the Borough, were taken by the Food and Drugs Authority (Worcestershire County Council) during the year. Analysis results were as follows :

Phosphatase Test			Methylene Blue Test		
Pass	Fail	Void	Pass	Fail	Void
68	–	—	66	—	2

Note.—Methylene Blue Test void when shade temperature exceeds 65° F.

Ice-Cream

Twenty-four retailers are registered for the sale of Ice-cream, many of whom deal only in pre-packed products.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the following infestations have been dealt with in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—

Corporation Property (excluding dwelling houses)	8
Private Dwellings	56
Business Premises	34
Agricultural, etc.	1
Total	99

These figures are taken from the annual return as required by the Ministry and do not indicate the actual number of treatments carried out. The Corporation tip, for example, requires fortnightly attention at least, but is shown only once in this return.

Sewers

Two sewer treatments were carried out during the year in accordance with Ministry requirements.

24 manholes were prebaited in the Bewdley area and 16 in Wribbenhall. All points were twice revisited, but no "takes" were recorded.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

In addition to house refuse, trade refuse is collected and disposed of by controlled tipping at a site approximately 1¼ miles from the town centre.

A limited amount of trade refuse is retained for salvage (cartons, containers, etc.), and a total quantity of 12 tons 2 cwts. 2 qrs. was collected and sold during the year.

Possibilities were explored of providing more frequent collection services in the outlying areas of the district, but no further action was taken because of the high costs involved.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF DEPARTMENT

A total number of 1,262 visits were distributed as follows:—

Housing defects, overcrowding, etc.	227
Houses let-in-lodgings	9
Corporation Property (defects, etc.)	258
Infectious Disease	8
Factories (Part I only)	34
Food Premises (including meat inspections)	120
Water supply	30
Rodent and other Pest Control (excluding operator's visits)	12
Caravan sites	55
Drainage works	160
Refuse complaints, Corporation Tip, etc.	15
Miscellaneous	235
	1,163
Rodent treatments	99
Total	1,262

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES E. SHEEN,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector